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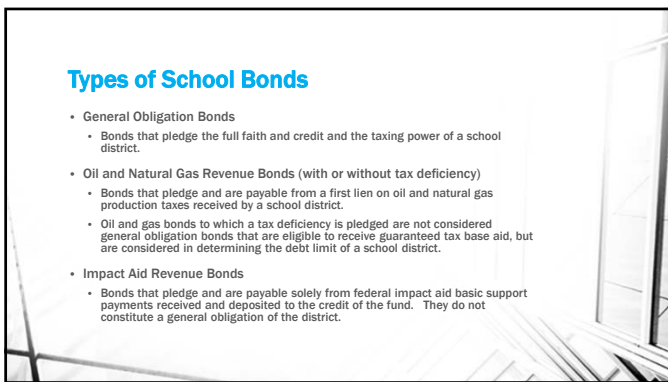
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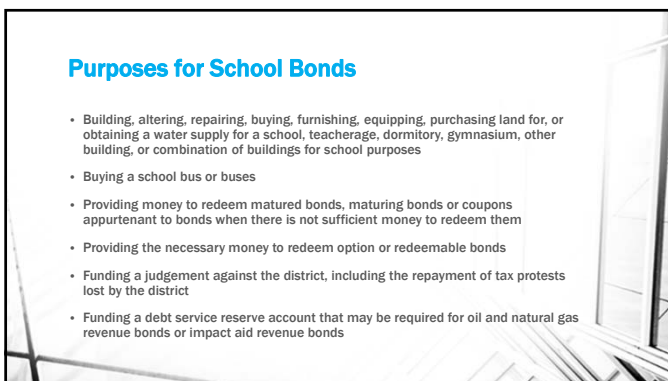
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### Recent Changes to Election Laws Affecting Bond Elections

- Election Resolution Date: 20-20-201, MCA
- Transmittal of Resolution to County Election Administrator: 20-9-426, MCA
- Change in Mail Ballot Requirements: 13-19-205 and 13-19-207, MCA
- Late Registration: 13-2-304, MCA
- Notice Requirements: 13-2-301 and 20-20-204, MCA
- Ballot Certification: 20-20-401, MCA
- Absentee Ballots: 20-9-426, MCA

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### Election Resolution Date: 20-20-201, MCA

*Was: 70 days for a mail ballot election and 40 days for a poll election.*

**Now: 70 days for ALL elections**

Must include in your resolution whether or not the election will be by mail or poll, the time the polls will be open, the polling location (and boundaries if more than one), and three judges for each location

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### Transmittal of Resolution to County Election Administrator 20-9-426, MCA

*Was: No later than 35 days before the election*

**Now: No later than 3 days after the resolution is passed and after the mail ballot written plan is approved**

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**Change in Mail Ballot Requirements: 13-19-205 and 13-19-207, MCA**

*Was: A single mail ballot plan for a district election*

**Now: Separate mail ballot plans for each election within a district (if not a K-12 district, the EL and HS are "separate" elections)**

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**Late Registration: 13-2-304, MCA**

*Was: School district not subject to the requirements of late registration*

**Now: School districts must coordinate with the county election administrator for the coordination of the provisions of late registration**

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**Notice Requirements: 13-2-301 and 20-20-204, MCA**

*Was: No notice requirement for the close of regular registration and one notice of election between 20 and 30 days before the election in a newspaper of general circulation (if available), along with posting of at 3 least notices in a public place (at least 1 per precinct), and an option to publish notice via radio or television*

**Now: Must publish a notice of the close of regular registration and availability of late registration and expands the election notice window to between 10 and 40 days before, retains the requirement to publish in a newspaper of general circulation (if available), changes the posting requirement to just three per district, includes a provision to post notice on the district's webpage (if active) 10 days before the election, and an option to publish notice via any recognized media organization**

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### Ballot Certification: 20-20-401, MCA

*Was: Not less than 25 days before*

**Now: Not less than 30 days before**

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### Ballot Availability: 20-9-426, MCA

*Was: Ballots for bond elections must be available at least 30 days prior to the election and each bond purpose must be on a separate ballot*

**Now: Ballots for bond elections are available at the same time as other ballots – 20 days before for absentee ballots and 15-20 days before for mail ballots – and only one ballot is required for multiple bond purposes**

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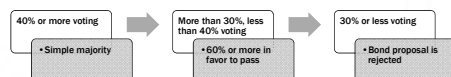
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### Ballot Counting in School Elections

When the election is held at a regular school election or at a special election called by the board of trustees:




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**Ballot Counting in School Elections**

When the election is held in conjunction with a primary election, a general election, or by mail ballot (including a regular school election or special election):

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**Bond Election Timeline**



Pass an election resolution no later than 70 days prior to the election (regardless of whether the election is by mail ballot or poll

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**Bond Election Timeline**



Transfer the election resolution to the county election administrator:

- Within 3 days of passage of the election resolution; and
- As soon as a mail ballot plan has been approved by the secretary of state.

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### Bond Election Timeline



If running a mail ballot election, have your mail ballot plan to the secretary of state ***no later than*** the 60<sup>th</sup> day before the election

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### Bond Election Timeline



Within 5 days of receipt of the plan (or amendments) the secretary of state shall approve, disapprove, or recommend changes.

Amendments must be submitted no later than 35 days before the election.

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### Bond Election Timeline



Regular registration closes 30 days prior to the election.

Districts must notice the close of regular registration and provide information on late registration

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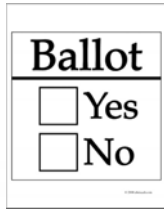
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### Bond Election Timeline



Ballot must be certified no later than 30 days prior to the election

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### Bond Election Ballots

Must be substantially in the following form:

#### OFFICIAL BALLOT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND ELECTION

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Make an X or similar mark in the vacant square before the words "BONDS - YES" if you wish to vote for the bond issue; if you are opposed to the bond issue, make an X or similar mark in the square before the words "BONDS - NO".

Shall the board of trustees be authorized to issue and sell (state type of bonds here; general obligation, oil and natural gas revenue, oil and natural gas revenue for which a tax deficiency is pledged, or impact aid revenue) bonds of this school district in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars (\$ \_\_\_\_\_), payable semiannually, during a period not more than \_\_\_\_\_ years, for the purpose of \_\_\_\_\_ (state purpose)?

- ☐ Bonds - YES  
☐ Bonds - NO

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### Bond Election Timeline



Notify election judges at least 30 days prior to the election

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### Bond Election Timeline



Election notice published between 40 and 10 days prior to the election

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### Bond Election Timeline



Election notice must be published in a newspaper of general circulation (if there is one), in 3 public places within the district, on the district website (if active), and by any other media organization (optional).

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### Noticing School Bond Elections

- In substantially the following form
- More than one purpose, separately stated in the notice, with the amount for each purpose
- Type of bond (general obligation, oil and natural gas or impact aid revenue)
- Follow the notice requirements for any other school election.

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NOTICE OF SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND ELECTION

Notice is hereby given by the trustees of School District No. \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_ County, State of Montana, that pursuant to a certain resolution adopted at a meeting of the board of trustees of the school district held on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_ an election of the registered electors of School District No. \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_ County, State of Montana, will be held on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_ for the purpose of voting upon the question of whether or not the trustees may issue and sell (state bond type) bonds of the school district in the amount of \_\_\_\_ dollars (\$ \_\_\_\_), payable semiannually, for the purpose of \_\_\_\_ (state purpose). The bonds to be issued will be payable in installments over a period not exceeding \_\_\_\_ years. The polls will be open from \_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_ m and until \_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_ m of the election day. Dated and posted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_.

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Bond Election Timeline



Absentee ballots available no later than 20 days prior to the election

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Bond Election Timeline



Mail ballots are mailed between 15 and 20 days prior to the election. All ballots must be mailed on the same day.

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### Bond Election Timeline



ELECTION DAY!!

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### Bond Election Timeline



Within 15 days of the election, the board of trustees canvasses the vote.

If there are provisional ballots, the canvass cannot occur prior to 3pm on the 6<sup>th</sup> day after the election.

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### Bond Election Discussion



Does the timing of the election affect passage?

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Bond Election Discussion



What role does the district have in promoting the bond?

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Bond Election Discussion



Other issues?

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